

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /053 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9297

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US, GH

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN PRESS CHARGES CIA INVOLVEMENT IN GHANA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4507

1. ACCOMPANIED BY DCM HOLMES, I DISCUSSED CONTENTS REFTEL TODAY WITH ERIC OTOO, SENIOR PRINCIPAL SECRETARY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND GEORGE LAMPTEY, DIRECTOR EUROPE AND AMERICAS DIVISION. NEITHER HAD HEARD OF ALLEGATIONS IN ETHIOPIAN HERALD BUT BOTH FELT THAT IN VIEW OF THEIR SERIOUS NATURE EXTENSIVELY INVOLVING GHANA AND THEIR PATENT FALSITY THEY SHOULD BE REFUTED. I INDICATED THAT WHILE USG MADE A PRACTICE OF NOT RESPONDING TO ANY SUCH ATTACKS INVOLVING CIA, WE WOULD WELCOME STATEMENT BY GOG IN THIS CASE. OFFICIALS VOLUNTEERED THAT AS SOON AS REPORT OF ARTICLE WAS RECEIVED FROM GHANAIAAN EMBASSY IN ADDIS THEY WOULD CONSIDER POSSIBILITY ARRANGING FOR DENIAL BY GHANAIAAN EMBASSY TO BE ISSUED IN THAT CITY.

2. IN DUSCUSSING ORIGIN OF HERALD ARTICLE THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON BOTH SIDES THAT IT ALMOST CERTAINLY COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO SOVIETS, WHO OBVIOUSLY SEIZED ON MY JUNE 24 MEETING WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER (REPORTED SEPTTEL) TO DEVELOP A FANCIFUL STORY DESIGNED TO DRIVE A WEDGE
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BETWEEN GHANA AND US. LAMPTEY NOTED WRYLY THAT SOVIET CHARGE HAD SIMILAR MEETING WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ON SAME DAY.

3. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF RECENT ASSURANCES TO ME BY CHAIRMAN ACHEAMPONG, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER FELLI AND SENIOR GOG SECURITY OFFICIALS THAT IT IS THE USSR, NOT

THE USG, THAT THEY SUSPECT OF "PLAYING GAMES" HERE, WE
DO NOT THINK STORY WILL HAVE MUCH IMPACT LOCALLY. OTOO
AND LAMPTEY DOUBT THAT GHANAIAAN PRESS WOULD EVEN PLAY THE
STORY. WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN BUT ARE INCLINED TO AGREE.
PLEASE ADVISE IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY PROBLEM WITH GHANAIAANS
ISSUING SOME KIND OF DENIAL IN ADDIS.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NEOCOLONIALISM, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, PGOV, ET, US, GH
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